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Exemption Registry

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AUG 25 1950

THRU : Chief, Coordination, Operations and Policy Staff
 : Management Officer
 : Assistant Director for Operations
 : Wartime Role of Foreign Documents Division

1. The Joint Intelligence Committee has recently taken an active interest in the question of the wartime exploitation of captured documents. This raises the point of the extent of CIA interest in this matter.

2. I feel that the question of exploitation of newly captured documents cannot be clearly faced by CIA until a decision has been made as to the wartime role of the Foreign Documents Division. At the present time, FDD obviously has much more than it can do under its assigned functions of a) exploitation of current published material, b) answering the specific information requests of the various agencies, and c) providing central translation service for the Agency. That some of these functions may be sharply delimited in time of war is a distinct possibility. However, to what extent they will be delimited or increased, and to what extent new functions may be necessarily added has not yet been given adequate study.

3. It is possible that one or more of the following functions may devolve upon FDD in time of war:

a. Exploitation or translation of covert foreign language material on a considerably augmented scale.

b. Training of personnel in foreign languages or documents exploitation techniques.

c. Preparation of necessary reference aids, including lexicographical material, especially for use in support of field operations.

d. Survey and compilation of basic studies from already existing but unexploited material.

e. Supplementary work for the Advisory Council.

f. Assisting in

g. Exploitation of captured documents.

4. Assuming that the T/O of the division remains constant, any one of the above functions would probably keep current division personnel fully occupied. Assumption of responsibility for one or more, in addition to present functions, would require an increase in personnel. It is also possible that the division workload would be increased in wartime by augmentation of the number of requirements and translation requests without any change in divisional functions.

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5. It is therefore recommended that:

a. An informal survey be undertaken by the division of its principal customers in CIA and the other intelligence agencies to determine their anticipated wartime needs and their opinions regarding possible changes in FDD functions in case of war.

b. A preliminary determination be made by your staff as to which of the above functions (Paragraph 3) may be assigned to FDD in wartime, and the order of their priority in relation to current functions, insofar as agency interests are concerned.

c. We be informed, for planning purposes, whether you anticipate an increase in the T/O of the division in case of war, and the probable extent of such an increase.

6. Upon receipt of such further information and guidance on this subject, a tentative plan for the wartime functions and operations of the division will be drawn up and submitted for your approval.

GEORGE G. CAREY

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